

Today, 43,000 Americans from all over this country are waiting for a transplant. Serious life-threatening illnesses, Mr. Speaker, just do not discriminate.

The greatest tragedy of all, Mr. Speaker, is that every day eight people die waiting for this donor organ. And that is not because they are not out there, it is because far too few people realize how precious a gift they can give before it is too late.

I would like to take this time, Mr. Speaker, to ask my colleagues to discuss the issue of organ donation with those they care about. Give someone the miracle of a second chance. Give the gift of life and become an organ donor. I just cannot tell my colleagues how much it meant to me.

#### REFORM LEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our legal immigration system is broken and needs to be fixed.

It forces husbands and wives and their children to wait up to 10 years to join each other in the United States.

Also, the number of legal immigrants applying for supplemental security income has increased 580 percent over the last 12 years. That costs hard-working taxpayers \$4 billion a year.

And our broken legal immigration system drives the crisis in illegal immigration. Over 40 percent of all illegal aliens arrived as legal immigrants but overstayed their temporary visas.

To fix these problems, the Immigration in the National Interest Act, H.R. 2202, substantially reduces the waiting time for families to be reunited.

It also encourages legal immigrants to be self-reliant and discourages them from becoming a burden to the American taxpayer.

Help fix a broken immigration system and support the Immigration in the National Interest Act.

□ 1030

#### THE HOUSE MUST NOT TOLERATE A DOUBLE STANDARD

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, both Common Cause and I insist that in order to carry out the responsibilities of an outside counsel effectively, it is necessary for the counsel's authority and independence to be clearly and publicly established. The special counsel must have the authority and independence necessary to conduct the inquiry in an effective and credible manner. The House of Representatives, as well as the American public, deserve an investigation which will uncover the truth. At this moment, I am afraid

that the apparent restrictions placed on this special counsel will not allow the truth to be uncovered. "The rules normally applied by the Ethics Committee to an investigation of a typical Member are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House. Clearly, this investigation has to meet a higher standard of public accountability and integrity." Prophetic words, indeed, Mr. Speaker.

These are the words of the current Speaker of the House in 1988 referring to the investigation of a former Speaker of this House. This House cannot and must not tolerate a double standard. The Ethics Committee must follow the standard set by Speaker GINGRICH himself.

We need an outside counsel to investigate Speaker GINGRICH and we must not restrict the scope of that counsel's investigation. Let's get on with it.

#### WELFARE REFORM IN THE BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Bob Timberlake is like firelight in a home's window to Nebraskans left out in the cold.

He runs the Open Door Mission, a shelter for Nebraska's homeless. On any given night over 200 guests get emergency shelter at the mission.

But the mission's help doesn't come with no strings attached. Pastor Bob strongly encourages work.

The Federal Government doesn't do that.

As a result, welfare has decayed working-class society like sugar on teeth.

That's why our welfare reform package is so important. After a decade of promises, the Republican majority is delivering true welfare reform. It will enforce work. No more something for nothing. No more free lunch.

And like Pastor Bob, it maintains our safety net at the same time it requires some sweat equity and elbow grease.

Too many children in our Nation are not just trapped in poverty, but trapped in the destructive welfare state.

I believe those who care about them should embrace real welfare reform.

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of questions that have been going on about the budget. Will we have a balanced budget? Will the Democrats go with the Congressional Budget Office numbers? When will the budget be balanced? Will the President,

in fact, offer a balanced budget? Will it happen this year? Will it happen before Christmas?

In fact, Mr. Speaker, there has been so much confusion about the budget that I told the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] to go down to the CIA and get one of the palm readers down there to give him a prediction.

One thing we know, Mr. Speaker, is that we do not need a crystal ball to read this agreement right here that happened between the Republicans and the Democrats. It says, both sides, including and especially the President, are committed to a 7-year balanced budget.

"The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than the fiscal year 2002, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office."

Not one person voted against this. This is what the discussion is all about, Mr. Speaker. Let us keep our commitments and follow this agreement.

#### A 50-PERCENT INCREASE IN STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM IS NOT A CUT

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to set the record straight concerning the student loan and Pell grant proposals in the Balanced Budget Act of 1995.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to what my colleagues may be hearing from sources on the other side of the aisle, Federal student loans are not cut. In fact, loan volume will increase by 50 percent over the next 7 years without imposing additional costs to students or parents. This amounts to an increase of \$12 billion in spending on Federal student loans through the year 2002; from \$24 to \$36 billion in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, not only do Republicans increase spending for the guaranteed student loan program by 50 percent, but the maximum award for Pell Grants targeted to low-income students will rise to the highest level in their history, to \$2,440.

We have targeted the expenditures to those who need it most; not cut them. Democrats have barraged the airwaves to convince the public that Republicans are cutting Federal financial aid, but a 50-percent increase in the guaranteed loan program demonstrates that this is not the case.

#### COMMITMENT TO A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, 18 days ago in the House of Representatives we passed a continuing resolution that had the language in it, that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON]

just showed, that makes and unequivocal commitment of every single Member of this House that voted that day. Not one single Democrat voted against that. Nobody has voted against that. The President of the United States signed it into law.

Mr. Speaker, it says clearly and simply we are going to, by December 31, midnight, 1995, we will enter into a balanced budget agreement that will show by the year 2002 the amount that we spend is going to be in balance with the amount that we take in.

It has been 18 days since the President signed that into law. The President has not given one ounce of indication as to exactly what he is going to do; how he is going to get to that point. We have a piece of legislation that has been passed on the Senate side and the House side. It has been passed in conference. It is, in fact, the Balanced Budget Act of 1995.

Mr. Speaker, if the President does not like it, would the President please come forward; would the Democratic leaders in the Congress please come forward; would the Democratic leaders in the Senate come forward and tell us where they differ.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule. Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Commerce, Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on International Relations, Committee on National Security, Committee on Resources, and the Committee on Science.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Is there objection to the

request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1058, PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I called up House Resolution 290 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 290

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1058) to reform Federal securities litigation, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Dayton, OH [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. All time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1058, the Securities Litigation Reform Act. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

Securities litigation reform is not some abstract proposal that will prove meaningless to everyone but a few overlitigious lawyers and assorted legal professors around the country. This bill is about jobs. This is a critical step in our effort to help create more high-quality private-sector jobs here at home.

Private securities litigation is undertaken today in a system that encourages meritless cases, destroys thou-

sands of jobs, undercuts economic growth, and raises the prices that American families pay for goods and services.

This legislation targets a particularly abusive class of securities lawsuits often filed with the sole intention of extorting pretrial settlement from companies whose stock has fallen in value. Because of the innovative nature of the work of high-technology companies, their stock values are inherently volatile, making them frequent targets of strike-suit lawyers. For example, nearly every company in California's Silicon Valley has faced this type of litigation, and this problem also plagues the cutting-edge biotechnology industry.

In States like California, where high-technology companies are a critical component of economic recovery and revitalization, strike suits aimed at crippling legitimate high technology firms are crippling prospects for growth and job creation.

The conference report on H.R. 1058 represents a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on securities litigation reform that will promote good business practices, protect investors' rights, and free innocent parties from wasteful and baseless litigation designed to enrich litigators alone. While Chairman BLILEY and Chairman FIELDS have done tremendous work to bring this conference agreement to the floor, I must note the efforts of my colleague from Newport Beach, CA, CHRIS COX.

CHRIS, a former securities lawyer, has been involved in securities litigation reform since his days at Harvard Law School. He has pushed this important reform effort throughout his 6 years in the House, and was ready to move forward at the beginning of this year when success became a possibility. His hard work and leadership has been critical to this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this fair rule and move to debate of the conference agreement on H.R. 1058.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following material from the Committee on Rules:

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS UNDER SPECIAL RULES REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE,<sup>1</sup> 103D CONGRESS V. 104TH CONGRESS

[As of December 1, 1995]

Rule type	103d Congress		104th Congress	
	Number of rules	Percent of total	Number of rules	Percent of total
Open/Modified-open <sup>2</sup>	46	44	56	66
Modified Closed <sup>3</sup>	49	47	20	24
Closed <sup>4</sup>	9	9	9	10
Total	104	100	85	100

<sup>1</sup> This table applies only to rules which provide for the original consideration of bills, joint resolutions or budget resolutions and which provide for an amendment process. It does not apply to special rules which only waive points of order against appropriations bills which are already privileged and are considered under an open amendment process under House rules.

<sup>2</sup> An open rule is one under which any Member may offer a germane amendment under the five-minute rule. A modified open rule is one under which any Member may offer a germane amendment under the five-minute rule subject only to an overall time limit on the amendment process and/or a requirement that the amendment be preprinted in the Congressional Record.

<sup>3</sup> A modified closed rule is one under which the Rules Committee limits the amendments that may be offered only to those amendments designated in the special rule or the Rules Committee report to accompany it, or which preclude amendments to a particular portion of a bill, even though the rest of the bill may be completely open to amendment.

<sup>4</sup> A closed rule is one under which no amendments may be offered (other than amendments recommended by the committee in reporting the bill).

SPECIAL RULES REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE, 104TH CONGRESS

[As of December 1, 1995]

H. Res. No. (Date rept.)	Rule type	Bill No.	Subject	Disposition of rule
H. Res. 38 (1/18/95)	0	H.R. 5	Unfunded Mandate Reform	A: 350-71 (1/19/95).